

09/720353
528 Rec PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
for SIGNING AND SIGNATURE CHECKING)
OF MESSAGES)
Serial No: National Stage Entry of International) Our Docket No: 6400-11WOUS
Application No. PCT/DE00/01086 filed April 7, 2000)
Filed: Simultaneously herewith)

Hartford, Connecticut, December 21, 2000

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Concurrently with the entry of the above-identified international application into
the U.S. National Stage, please amend it as follows:

In the Specification (of the English Translation of the Application)

Page 1, line 3, delete the sub-heading "Technical field" and substitute --FIELD
OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, line 8, delete the sub-heading "Prior art" and substitute --
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, line 15, delete the sub-heading "Description of the invention" and
substitute --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.